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Editorial MORE THAN JUST A PASSION FOR WOOD

If the outer structure of a building forms the shell, the interior is the essence of a building where occupants and visitors encounter the building's true nature. This key architectural interface is the theme of our magazine. It links Röhthlisberger's carpentry expertise with the crucial understanding for architects' and interior designers' ability to develop and create the best possible interior solutions. The company's present role is as a general contractor for interior fit outs, and its ability to meet these high demands explains its success. A carpenter's and waggoner's workshop, founded in 1928, was the starting point. The company has been producing furniture under licence and interior fittings since the sixties. Peter Röhthlisberger is the current head of the company and the third generation in the business. The company, which plans and designs in close cooperation with architects, also designs and executes demanding interior construction work for private and public entities. It has been creating its own furniture since 1977: many items have gone down in design history. Röhthlisberger focusses on three particular areas: interior fitting, engineering and the furniture collection.

Located in Sägeweg, Gümligen, the company's self-image is characterised by two fundamental principles. First: its passion for wood, an attachment which never becomes overly sentimental. As Peter Röhthlisberger puts it, "We like wood, but we do not reject all other materials out of hand." He distances himself from the outdated image of sawdust and old woodworking tools, and one look around the company confirms this attitude, as does René Hornung's report. In a conversation with Philipp Iseli, Roland Keller explains how his Engineering Department works and that wood is not their core competence. Röhthlisberger plans, builds and constructs with a broad range of materials, both for interiors and for the furniture collection. However, if wood is involved, then the craftsmanship is of the highest possible level. But the work would come to nothing without the architects and interior designers whose projects are presented here. And so to the second point: Röhthlisberger is characterised by an enduring and successful ping-pong game, as Peter Röhthlisberger describes the collaboration between architect and craftsman, between designer and furniture manufacturer. Meret Ernst

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>The Röhthlisberger team.

>Large-sized pieces in the Röhthlisberger workshops.